

ABSTRACT FOR DPS MEETING – PADUA, ITALY 11-15 OCT 1999

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By the time of the DPS meeting the Galileo spacecraft will be entering into the final phase of its extended operations, the Galileo Europa Mission (GEM), consisting of two close flybys of Io. During the first, Europa, phase of GEM the spacecraft continued to operate well, although two encounters were degraded by safing events near closest approach to Jupiter. Before beginning the perijove reduction phase of GEM, new software was loaded which can detect and correct the problem causing the safing. This new program worked well during the C20 encounter with Callisto. Other software has successfully been used in GEM to correct radiation induced bias in the gyro outputs. If the spacecraft and its systems survive the close encounters with Io in October and November 1999, a further extension is technically feasible which offers the possibility of Galileo science operations during the Cassini Jupiter flyby in December 2000. The latest status for the mission and prospects for operations in 2000 will be reported at the meeting.

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